BRINKS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8 by certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Pestal Service as first class mail, with ent postage, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents 9. 0. Box 1450, HOFER GILSON lándria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date: Name: Andrew D. Stover, Reg. No. 38,629 Signature: May 3, 2006 &LIONE IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re Appln. of: Price et al. Examiner: Kidwell, Michele M. Appln. No.: 09/899,808 Art Unit: 3761 Filed: July 5, 2001 REFASTENABLE ABSORBENT For: **GARMENT** 659-867 Attorney Docket No: 17022 Client Ref. No.: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 **TRANSMITTAL** Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Sir: Attached is/are: \boxtimes Reply to April 6, 2006 Office Action \boxtimes Return Receipt Postcard Fee calculation: No additional fee is required. Small Entity. An extension fee in an amount of \$____ for a ____-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$____ under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(____). An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below: Small Entity Not a Small Entity Highest No. Present Claims Remaining Add'l Fee or Rate Previously Paid For Rate Add'I Fee Extra After Amendment x \$50= x \$25= **Total** Minus x \$200= x 100 =Indep. Minus + \$360= First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim +\$180= \$ Total \$ Total Fee payment: A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed. Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$. . . A copy of this Transmittal is enclosed for this purpose. Payment by credit card in the amount of \$____ (Form PTO-2038 is attached). The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 \boxtimes

Respectfully submitted, May 3, 2006 Date

Account No. 23-1925.

Andrew D. Stovec (Reg. No. 38,629)

and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this paper (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit MAY 0 5 2006 WHE

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22313-1450, on:

Date of Mailing

ANDREW D. STOVER, Reg. No. 38,629

Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative

ignature

Date of Signature

Our Case No. <u>659-867</u>

Examiner: Kidwell, Michele M.

Group Art Unit No.: 3761

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Price, et al.

Serial No.: 09/899,808

Filing Date: July 5, 2001

For:

REFASTENABLE ABSORBENT

GARMENT

REPLY TO APRIL 6, 2006 OFFICE ACTION

MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants received an outstanding Office Action mailed April 6, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the reply filed January 23, 2006 was not fully responsive, namely since the amendments were not in compliance with 37 CFR

1.121. In particular, the Examiner noted that changes to an amended claim must be shown by strikethrough or underlining, except that the deletion of five characters or less may be *may* be shown with double brackets, and that the deletion of certain characters *must* be used if the strikethrough cannot be easily perceived.

After reviewing Applicants' Amendment filed January 23, 2006, the undersigned attorney was not able to identify any changes that were not in compliance. Although Applicants deleted words with five or fewer characters (see, e.g., claims 20-24 – "a", "edge" and "seam"), the use of double brackets is optional, not mandatory, and the strikethrough in those claims is easily perceived.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Amendment as filed is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended claim 20 to provide double brackets around the letter "a" to further clarify the amendment. Applicants' undersigned attorney attempted to contact the Examiner to clarify the perceived error before filing this response, but was unable to reach her.